

## Message Text

SECRET

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15

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 SAM-01 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 L-03 IO-10 PRS-01 /071 W

----- 087630

R 110859Z NOV 75

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2524

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

S E C R E T BAGHDAD 1150

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJ: ALGERIAN MESSAGE TO IRAQ ON SPANISH SAHARA

1. BAGHDAD PRESS ON NOVEMBER 3 REPORTED A VISIT TO IRAQ ON NOVEMBER 2 OF LAKHTAR IBRAHIMI, PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF ALGERIAN PRESIDENT HOUARI BOUMEDIENNE. IBRAHIMI WAS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN THE BEARER OF A MESSAGE FROM BOUMEDIENNE AND WAS RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT BAKR AND FOREIGN MINISTER HAMMADI. PRESS ACCOUNT WAS NONCOMMITTAL ON SUBSTANCE OF MESSAGE.

2. ACCORDING TO TUNISIAN AMBASSADOR CHELLI, WHO SEEMS TO HAVE GOOD SOURCES IN BAGHDAD, IBRAHIMI CARRIED MESSAGE ON SPANISH SAHARA. IBRAHIMI EXPLAINED ALGERIAN POSITION ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

A. ALGERIA FAVORS SELF DETERMINATION FOR ALL PEOPLES, AND SAHARANS ARE NO EXCEPTION. PEOPLE OF THE SAHARA SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO CHOSE AN INDEPENDENT STATE IF THAT IS THEIR DESIRE.

B. MOROCCO IS CONSPIRING WITH THE UNITED STATES AND SPAIN AGAINST PROGRESSIVE MOVEMENTS IN ALGERIA AND ELSEWHERE. AGREE-  
MENT HAS BEEN REACHED BETWEEN THE GOVERMENTS OF MOROCCO AND THE UNITED STATES WHEREBY USG WILL SUPPORT MOROCCAN CLAIMS ON THE SAHARA IN RETURN FOR U.S. MILITARY BASES IN MOROCCO. THESE

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BASES ALONG WITH U.S. BASES IN SPAIN WILL THEN CONSTITUTE A

BRIDGEHEAD OF IMPERIALIST FORCES AIMED AT ALGERIA AND OTHER  
PROGRESSIVE REGIMES.

3. COMMENT: GIVEN IRAQI SUSPICIONS OF USG, ALGERIAN MESSAGE  
PROBABLY SOUNDS PLAUSIBLE TO IRAQI REGIME. AT SAME TIME,  
IRAQIS PROBABLY AWARE THAT A PRINCIPLE ALGERIAN MOTIVE IS TO  
ESTABLISH REGIME IN SAHARA OVER WHICH THEY MIGHT BE ABLE TO  
EXERT CONSIDERABLE FUTURE INFLUENCE.

4. IN FACT, GOI SEEMS TO HAVE DECIDED AGAINST ALGERIA. GOVT  
CONTROLLED BAGHDAD OBSERVER ON NOV 10 CARRIED EDITORIAL ARGUING  
THAT A WEAK, INDEPENDENT SAHARA CANNOT BE TOLERATED BECAUSE IT  
WOULD PROVIDE AN OPENING FOR IMPERIALIST PENETRATION OF ARAB  
HOMELAND.  
WILEY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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